Positionality

POSITIONALITY

WHAT IS IT?

POSITIONALITY IS YOUR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IDENTITY WHICH IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR ENVIRONMENT. POSITIONALITY CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON HOW YOU ARE PERCEIVED IN SOCIETY. AS ASPIRING ANTHROPOLOGISTS YOU WILL BE DEALING WITH POSITIONALITY AND THE CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH IT.

THIS WILL BE YOUR GUIDE TO REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF POSITIONALITY WHEN OUT IN THE FIELD.

AND WHY IT'S → IMPORTANT

Labels Are For Jars But This One Is For You

Positionality In The Field

When doing interviews in the field, some situations might become awkward or even unfriendly due to unshared beliefs, political opinions, or even basic cultural differences. Both the interlocuters's and the reasearcher's positionalities infleunce both parties' behavior towards one another.

How Positionality Can Affect You In The Field

EX:

When doing research about religion, a non-religious researcher might feel awkward interviewing religious interlocutors. Additionally, interlocutors might communicate differently with the researcher because of their different religious beliefs or lack there off.

In certain cultures, a caste system governs how societies run. The caste system influences how people interact towards one another. This can be the case between the resaerchers and his research population. It might also influence the reasercher's ability to study other sample populations.

In many cultures, people are dividied by class.Class is often related to one's financial situation.A researchers' appearance could create barriers depending on who they are talking to.

Positionality & Data Breaches

A breach of data can result in the leaking of researchers' or interlocutors' information. This might change their positionality which results in people behaving differently towards them and thus the situation changing. A breach of data could also result in interlocutors' social safety being compromised.

The breaching of a researcher's data, either personal or work related, could result in the incarceration of the researcher themself depending on where they conduct their research. Not to mention, the leaking of the interlocutors' personal data goes against the AAA Code of Ethics.

The leaking of the interlocutors' personal information can change the way interlocutors behave towards each other. This changes both the interlocutors' lives and the researched situation. For example, in the case of sensitive financial information being leaked, it is not unusual for an interlocutor's community to behave differently around and towards that person which could.

Avoiding A Data Breach

DISCLAIMER

YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE IN THE FIELD, YOU WILL ENCOUNTER MANY DIFFERENT SCENARIOS. DON'T TAKE THESE AS YOUR ONLY AND BEST SOLUTIONS.

WORKING OFFLINE

AWARENESS

ENCRIPTIONS

The first step you need to take as a researcher is being aware of both your own and your interlocutors' positionality. It is also important to inform your interlocutors of the situation and to ask them for consent for using certain data.

Encrypting your data also minimalizes the odds of a data breach. Try using a mix of different languages, abbreviations, pseudonyms and symbolms to make your data harder to read.

Explination Of How To Avoid Data Breaches

Another thing you can do to avoid a data breach is working offline as much as possible. It's easier for your information to be leaked online because of the fast reproductivity and the easy access one can have. It is much more difficult to get access to your data if it is stored in one single notebook.

Labels are for jars, not people

AHMAD ALQADY: S3253868
ELISA PESET MARTIN: S3249948
GUUS TACKE: S3137694
HANNA SCHONEVELD: S3347435